

A 4 THE TORONTO STAR, Tuesday, August 9, 1977

Metro man Israeli hero

By RON LOWMAN
Star staff writer

Sid Hurwich has a secret, and although Israel gave him its Medal of Honor for it, he won't say what it is.

The self-taught electronics expert, who still does appliance repairs at home, knows it scrambled Ugandan President Idi Amin's radar and allowed Israeli aircraft to land undetected during the raid on Entebbe.

That's why he was awarded the medal.

Now 63, a widower, father of two children and grandfather to four, he described his device not as an invention, but simply as "a different use for one of the oldest basic principles of electricity — and it stops bombs from going off."

PREVENT THEFTS

It started out as a device, apparently electro-magnetic, to help banks prevent thefts of money bags from night deposit boxes at their branches. In 1969, Hurwich called up two police inspector friends, Bill Bolton, now retired, and Dave Cowan, and suggested they bring some bankers' representatives over to his house.

The battery-powered device was hidden under a bedspread, but when he switched it on, no one could lift any of the bags they had brought for the demonstration.

"Neither Dave nor I could pull the triggers on our unloaded service revolvers," Bolton told The Star. "We couldn't even pick them up."

ALL STOPPED

Twenty minutes after they had entered the room, Hurwich told everybody to

told a Toronto luncheon audience that his plane landed in the cloak of a civilian plane's noise — in darkness. Radar-wise people present took that statement with a large grain of salt.

"I had an idea the device was used at Entebbe," said Hurwich. "But when the general was here, I found out for sure that it was. It's flexible and has many uses."

His own synagogue, the orthodox Shaarei Shomayim, took note of his medal and described his instrument as "a secret device which saved thousands of Israeli lives in the operations of war."

On the bronze Israeli medal, in Hebrew and English, are the words: "Four times for war and four times for peace." On the obverse is written: "And all her paths are peace." The engraving shows an olive branch and sword, and on the other side, the sun rising over a ship.

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ELECTRONICS EXPERT SID HURWICH
Invention used in Entebbe raid

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